Speaker Bios

Sally Bruce

Ms. Sally Bruce is currently the Quality Manager for NIST Measurement Services: Calibrations and Standard Reference Materials. She previously served as the Chief of the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) from 2006-2011. Ms. Bruce has developed, documented, implemented, and managed quality systems for specific NIST measurement service areas since 1992.

Ms. Bruce is the official NIST representative to the System Interamericana de Metrologia (SIM-Spanish for Inter-American Metrology System) Quality System Task Force (QSTF). SIM is the regional metrology organization for the Americas. The SIM QS TF is composed of representatives from the SIM countries that are signatories to the International Committee on Weights and Measures (Comité International des Poids et Mesures, or CIPM) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). The SIM QS TF reviews and determines the acceptance of each National Metrology Institute's (NMI) Quality System, a necessary step for final approval of NMI capabilities in the measurement areas under the CIPM MRA.

She is a peer evaluator for accreditation bodies with emphasis in calibration accreditations throughout Asia Pacific (APLAC) and a lead peer evaluator the Americas (IAAC) using the ISO/IEC 17011, the standard used for conformity assessment.

Catherine Cooksey

Catherine Cooksey is a research chemist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD. She serves as Project Leader for Spectrophotometry, which includes reflectance and transmittance calibration services, and Quality Manager for the Sensor Science Division, which encompasses one of the largest programs for calibration services at NIST.

Catherine has experience managing quality systems at both service level and division level. At the service level, her tasks include maintaining quality documentation and records, managing and validating the national scales for reflectance and transmittance, and interacting with customers and addressing their needs. At the division level, her tasks involve developing quality documentation and policy, consulting on quality issues within the Division, and conducting regular audits of the quality system.

Michael Epstein

Michael Epstein has been the Quality Manager for the Chemical Sciences Division in the Material Measurements Laboratory since November 2014.

He began his career at NBS as a graduate student in 1972 after discharge from the military and received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in 1976. After a one-year postdoctoral appointment at the University of Florida, he returned to NBS/NIST where over a 25-year period he worked as an analyst, as a group leader, and as a scientific advisor to the Director of the Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory. As an analyst he was involved in the certification of over 200 Standard Reference Materials. He retired from NIST in 2002 to take a teaching position at Mount St. Mary's University and returned to NIST in 2014.

Michael has over 50 peer-reviewed publications and is a recipient of a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal and a Distinguished Service Award of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy.

Lisa R. Karam

Lisa R. Karam has been a research chemist at NBS/NIST since 1983 where her work has focused on the interaction of ionizing radiation in biological systems (primarily, proteins and DNA) and the application of radiation and radioactivity in industry and medicine (including radioendofullerenes and radiopharmaceuticals).

As leader of the Radioactivity Group at NIST from early 1998, Dr. Karam managed the development of standard radioactive sources and played a leading role in the Group's international interactions in radionuclide metrology. She has also had extensive interactions with leaders in the radiopharmaceutical, radiological and clinical industries, and other users of radioactive sources; she served for 18 months as Senior Technical Advisor for the Health Care Industry to the NIST Director during which she implemented high-level relationships between NIST and leaders in the industry. Chief of the Radiation Physics (formerly, Ionizing Radiation) Division at NIST since 2003, she is the primary liaison for the Division with the Department of Homeland Security on issues concerning radiation use and detection, radioactive calibration sources, and protocols and standards for radiation measurements [and has been the co-chair of White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy's (OSTP's) National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Homeland and National Security Subcommittee on Standards (SoS) for CBRNE since 2008].

Dr. Karam is also the NIST representative to the Council on Ionizing Radiation Measurements and Standards (CIRMS), a not-for-profit organization of individuals, organizations and

corporations from national and international government, academic and private industry sectors who identify strategic needs and directions for ionizing radiation measurements and standards. She is Chairman of the International Committee on Weights and Measures' (CIPM's) Consultative Committee on Ionizing Radiation (CCRI) Section II (measurement of radionuclides) and Chairman of the InterAmerican System of Metrology's (SIM's) Metrology Working Group on Ionizing Radiation Measurements.

Karen Garrity

Karen Garrity received an MS in chemistry from the University of Maryland. She has performed thermocouple calibrations and research in the NIST Thermocouple Calibration Laboratory for 13 years. Her duties include calibrations of noble metal thermocouples, base metal thermocouples, and refractory metal thermocouples by comparison and fixed-point methods. She also builds freezing-point cells for the laboratory. She has led an international comparison of thermocouple calibration results, as well as proficiency tests. She has published papers on thermocouple performance and uncertainties, a thermocouple comparison, and improved furnace designs.

Dana Smith Leaman

Mrs. Leaman serves as the Chief of the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP). In her role as Chief, Mrs. Leaman oversees the NVLAP operations and accreditation activities of testing and calibration laboratories in the nineteen fields in which accreditation is offered. Previously, Mrs. Leaman served as a NVLAP program manager and staff contact for laboratories performing Cryptographic and Security Testing, Common Criteria Testing, Voting System Testing, Healthcare IT Testing and Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry. Her program management responsibilities included assistance in the daily accreditation operations for those programs. Mrs. Leaman began performing assessments for NVLAP in May 2009. Prior to that, she was employed with the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) and assisted with the management of the calibration accreditation program and the assessment of the calibration laboratories within that program. She also performed ISO/IEC 17025 quality system assessments in the testing fields as well.

Mrs. Leaman is a member of the NCSL International Board of Directors, currently serving on the Executive Committee as the Secretary. She has served on the Board since 2005, serving terms as the Vice President of the Southeastern US, Vice President of the Northeastern US, Vice President of Documentary Standards and Vice President of Special Programs.

Mrs. Leaman is also active in the international accreditation community serving in the ILAC Arrangement Committee, the APLAC Software Subcommittee, the APLAC Calibration Subcommittee and the IAAC Laboratory Subcommittee. She is also qualified as a APLAC and an IAAC peer evaluator for both testing and calibration.

Maria E. Nadal

Maria Nadal obtained her PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Colorado at Boulder and joined NIST in 1997 to work in the fields of Spectrophotometry, Color and Appearance, and Photometry and in 2001 was appointed as the Color and Appearance Project Leader. She is involved in developing new calibration services, measurement assurance programs, and standard reference materials for surface color, specular gloss, diffuse transmittance, and LED products as well as research in the gonio-chromatic attributes of special effect coatings. Maria is an active member of ASTM E12 (chairman), CORM, ISCC, CIE, IES-NA, CCPR, SIM Chair Committee on Photometry and Radiometry, and a NVLAP quality and technical assessor. Maria has received a NIST Bronze Award, an ASTM Award of Appreciation, and Woman Government and Defense Technology Award.

Antonio Possolo

Dr. Antonio Possolo is NIST Fellow and Chief Statistician for NIST, and a member of the Statistical Engineering Division in ITL. Besides his current role in government, he has sixteen years of previous experience in industry (General Electric, Boeing), and nine years of academic experience (Princeton University, University of Washington in Seattle, University of Lisboa).

Dr. Possolo is committed to the development and application of probabilistic and statistical methods that contribute to advances in science and technology. His engagement in measurement science includes being a member of Working Group 1 of the Joint Committee for Guides in Metrology, and chair of the Technical Working Group on “Statistics and Uncertainty” of the “Sistema Interamericano de Metrologia” (SIM).

Gregory F. Strouse

Gregory F. Strouse is the Associate Director for Measurement Services of the Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and is a member of the board responsible for assessments of the NIST Quality System. Since joining NIST in 1988, he has become a leading expert in temperature measurement and the realization and dissemination of the International Temperature Scale of 1990 (ITS-90). He has designed and built up several new world-class facilities including laboratories for the calibration

of standard platinum resistance thermometers, thermocouples and industrial thermometers, and he is a NVLAP technical and lead assessor. His current research interests include NIST-on-a-Chip embedded sensors, cold-chain management for vaccines, dynamic pressure sensors and standards, Johnson noise thermometry, acoustic gas thermometry, realization of the Boltzmann constant, photonic pressure standards and sensors, and development of alternative thermometers.